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FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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BEANS
FDP 12-60
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A HISTORY OF U.S. DRY BEAN

EXPORTS BY CLASS

In less than 4 decades, the United States has changed from a major importer of dry beans (1 million bags in some years during the 1920's) to the world's largest exporter. By 1959, U.S. bean exports to Europe jumped to 2 million bags, compared with the 1950-54 average of 800,000. U.S. commercial exports to all destinations in 1959 reached an alltime record of 4 million bags.

In the 1930's, when the United States first became a net exporter, the annual average was 100,000 bags. In the 1940's, the average jumped to 1.7 million bags, but much of this was U.S. Government relief to war-torn countries. The highest annual export during this period was 2.4 million bags in 1941.

Factors that made the large exports of the 1940's possible, were increased U.S. bean production (encouraged by government price supports) and the discontinued trade between countries of Western and Eastern Europe. With the cessation of Eastern European trade, Western Europe turned to the Americas and Africa.

As shown in Table 1, U.S. export statistics until 1940 grouped all classes of beans in one category. In 1940, seed beans were separately reported and in 1952, 3 new categories appeared. At the present time, bean exports are grouped in 8 different categories. See Tables 2-10.

Table 1.--BEANS, DRY EDIBLE: A history of U.S. exports by class and quantity

Year 1/	Navy or pea	Great northern:	Other white	Total white beans	Pinto	Red kidney	Small red	Other colored:	Total colored beans	Seed	Total all beans (inc. seed)
	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/
1929	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	175
1930	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	148
1931	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	145
1932	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	95
1933	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	76
1934	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	50
1935	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	64
1936	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	64
1937	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	55
1938	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	108
1939	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	498
1940	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	740
1941	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3/ 14	2,361
1942	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	1,282
1943	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	28	3,380
1944	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	67	2,109
1945	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	82	1,862
1946	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	710
1947	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	104	1,619
1948	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	49	2,455
1949	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	41	1,633
1950-51	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12	2,558
1951-52	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15	3,519
1952-53	--	--	--	1,564	--	308	--	1,376	1,684	50	3,297
1953-54	52	4/ 153	--	1,148	--	356	--	650	1,006	35	2,188
1954-55	5/ 674	184	419	624	4/ 339	215	--	541	1,095	20	1,740
1955-56	1,209	266	160	1,015	480	108	--	602	1,190	18	2,225
1956-57	8	128	138	1,613	241	257	--	610	1,108	33	2,754
1957-58	1,029	411	62	303	873	257	6/ 206	283	1,619	40	1,962
1958-59	1,433	629	114	1,502	1,132	309	749	224	2,414	31	3,947
1959-60	--	--	--	2,176	550	72	500	172	1,294	54	3,524

1/ Calendar years 1929 through 1949; marketing years 1950-51 through 1959-60. 2/ 100-lb bags. 3/ Not separately classified prior to 1940. 4/ Not separately classified prior to September 1954. 5/ Not separately classified prior to September 1955. 6/ Not separately classified prior to September 1957.

Table 2--: PEA BEANS: U.S. exports by country of destination; marketing years beginning September 1

Country of destination	1952-53	1953-54 1/	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60
	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/
North America:								
Canada	--	--	15	162	219	1	2	6
Total	--	--	15	162	219	1	2	6
Latin America:								
Cuba	--	--	7	4	--	2/	1	6
Mexico	--	--	--	2/	--	2/	--	--
Venezuela	--	--	1	2	1	2/	--	1
Total	--	--	8	6	1	2/	1	7
Europe:								
United Kingdom ...	--	--	19	480	934	3	932	1,096
Ireland	--	--	1	3	4	--	12	1
Netherlands	--	--	--	12	24	--	11	27
Germany, West	--	--	2/	--	--	--	--	20
Belgium	--	--	7	7	2	--	--	42
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	8	--	--	2
Italy	--	--	--	--	8	--	--	--
France	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	127
Greece	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Yugoslavia	--	--	--	--	--	--	71	72
Total	--	--	27	502	980	3	1,026	1,389
Asia:								
Philippines	--	--	1	--	2	1	--	--
Israel	--	--	--	--	7	--	--	--
Total	--	--	1	--	9	1	--	--
Africa:								
Algeria	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
Total	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
Oceania:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	19
Others	--	--	1	2	--	3	--	5
Total	--	--	52	672	1,209	8	1,029	1,433

1/ Included in all white beans prior to September 1954. 2/ 100-lb. bags. 3/ Less than 500 bags.

Table 3--: GREAT NORTHERNS: U.S. exports by destination; marketing years beginning September 1

Country of destination	1952-53	1953-54 1/	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60
	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/
North America:								
Canada			4	—	1	—	—	—
Total			4	—	1	—	—	—
Latin America:								
Cuba			130	146	216	119	207	258
Mexico			—	—	—	—	13	1
Venezuela			6	7	17	4	43	43
Peru			—	—	1	—	—	—
Bahamas			—	—	—	1	—	—
Total			136	153	234	124	263	302
Europe:								
Belgium			—	2	—	—	10	15
Germany, West			—	—	—	—	15	29
Netherlands			—	—	—	—	8	22
Spain			—	—	—	—	67	87
France			—	—	—	—	—	97
Greece			—	—	—	—	—	45
Total			—	2	—	—	100	295
Asia:								
Philippines			6	8	—	3	—	—
Israel			—	20	21	—	43	—
Total			6	28	21	3	43	—
Other			7	1	10	1	5	32
Grand total			153	184	266	128	411	629

1/ Included in all white beans prior to September 1954. 2/ 100 pound bags.

Table 4--: OTHER WHITE 1/: U.S. exports by destination; marketing years beginning September 1.

Country of destination	1952-53	1954-55 2/	1954-55 bags 3/	1,000 bags 3/	1955-56 bags 3/	1,000 bags 3/	1956-57 bags 3/	1,000 bags 3/	1957-58 bags 3/	1,000 bags 3/	1958-59 bags 3/	1959-60
North America:												
Canada	--	--	--	--	--	--	18	15	16	16	16	16
Total	--	--	--	--	--	--	18	15	16	16	16	16
Latin America:												
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	1	1	1
Cuba	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	19	5	5	5	3
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	3	5	5	2	2
Panama, Rep. of ...	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	9	--	--	--	--	--
Bahamas	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	2	1	1
Haiti	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	--	--	--	--	--	--	30	25	14	14	7	7
Europe:												
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	3	16	16	25	25
Belgium-Lux.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	3
Germany, West	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	--	--	--	--	--
France	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1
United Kingdom ...	--	--	--	--	--	--	42	8	4	4	10	10
Total	--	--	--	--	--	--	57	11	20	20	39	39
Asia:												
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	9	5	5	5	2	2
Japan	--	--	--	--	--	--	9	102	--	--	33	33
Total	--	--	--	--	--	--	18	107	5	5	35	35
Other countries:	--	--	--	--	--	--	15	9	7	7	17	17
Grand total	--	--	4/	419	4/	160	138	167	62	62	114	114

1/ Large and baby Limas, White kidney and etc. 2/ Included in all white beans, prior to Sept. 1954.
3/ 100-pound bags. 4/ No breakdown by country.

Table 5: PINTOS: U.S. exports by destination; marketing years beginning September 1

Country of destination	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bags $\frac{2}{1}$	bags $\frac{2}{1}$	bags $\frac{2}{1}$	bags $\frac{2}{1}$	bags $\frac{2}{1}$	bags $\frac{2}{1}$	bags $\frac{2}{1}$	bags $\frac{2}{1}$
North America:								
Canada	:	:	1	3	1	2	3	1
Total	:	1	3	3	1	2	3	1
Latin America:								
Cuba	:	:	22	63	61	130	85	212
Mexico	:	:	174	228	172	731	941	308
Venezuela	:	:	4	2	5	9	12	14
Colombia	:	:	5	—	—	—	—	—
Haiti	:	:	83	—	—	—	—	—
Costa Rica	:	:	—	26	1	—	—	—
British Honduras ..	:	:	7	5	1	—	—	4
Total	:	295	324	240	870	1,038	538	
Europe:								
Austria	:	:	—	2	—	—	—	—
Hungary	:	:	22	—	—	—	—	—
United Kingdom ...	:	:	1	—	—	—	—	—
Yugoslavia	:	:	—	22	—	—	—	—
Germany, West	:	:	2	10	—	—	—	—
Italy	:	:	16	70	—	—	3	—
Belgium	:	:	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	:	41	104	—	—	—	—	—
Asia:								
Lebanon	:	:	—	17	—	—	—	—
Hong Kong	:	:	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	:	:	—	17	—	—	—	—
Africa:								
Egypt	:	:	—	6	—	—	—	—
Other countries:	:	2	29	1	1	91	11	
Grand total	:	339	480	242	873	1,132	550	

1/ No breakdown prior to Sept. 1954. 2/ 100-pound bags. 3/ Less than 500 bags.

Table 6.--RED KIDNEY: U.S. exports by destination; marketing years beginning September 1.

Country of destination	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60
	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/
North America:								
Canada	3	2	4	4	4	2	2	2
Total	3	2	4	4	4	2	2	2
Latin America:								
Trinidad	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	--
Cuba	275	230	164	72	194	198	237	27
Mexico	13	4	2/	--	--	--	1	--
Panama, Rep. of	3	6	6	1	8	6	15	--
Venezuela	4	10	9	8	15	13	15	4
Netherland Antilles	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	--
British Honduras	4	3	1	3	2	4	7	--
Dominican Republic ..	--	--	--	--	4	14	--	--
Colombia	2/	14	5	1	--	2/	--	--
Total	301	269	187	86	225	237	286	31
Europe:								
Netherlands	--	--	5	2	--	4	4	--
Germany, West	--	36	--	--	2	--	--	--
Yugoslavia	--	36	--	--	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	--	--	--	6	--	--	--	--
Spain	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Italy	--	--	--	--	8	--	--	--
Belgium-Luxembourg ..	--	4	--	--	1	--	--	--
Total	--	76	5	8	12	4	4	--
Asia:								
Japan	--	--	5	1	--	--	--	4
Philippines	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nansei-Nanpo Isls. ..	--	--	2	2	--	--	--	--
Total	1	1	7	3	--	--	--	4
Others:								
	3	8	12	7	16	14	17	35
Grand total	308	356	215	108	257	257	309	72

1/ 100-lb. bags. 2/ Less than 500 bags.

Table 7-: SMALL REDS: U.S. Exports by destination; marketing years beginning September 1

Country of destination	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60
						1/		
North America:								
Canada	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bags 2/	bags 2/	bags 2/	bags 2/	bags 2/	bags 2/	bags 2/	bags 2/
Total						1	2	2
Latin America:								
Cuba						205	553	388
Nicaragua						--	27	--
Costa Rica						--	42	--
Brazil						--	--	96
Total						205	622	484
Europe:								
Spain						--	114	--
Netherlands						--	--	2
Germany, West						--	--	1
Total						--	114	3
Asia:								
Hong Kong						--	5	--
Total						--	5	--
Other Countries:						--	6	11
Grand total						206	749	500

1/ Included in other colored prior to September 1957. 2/ 100 pound bags.

Table 8--: OTHER COLORED: U.S. exports by destination; marketing years beginning September 1.

Country of destination	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bags 1/	bags 1/	bags 1/	bags 1/	bags 1/	bags 1/	bags 1/	bags 1/
North America:								
Canada	3	9	4	17	13	9	9	13
Total	3	9	4	17	13	9	9	13
Latin America:								
Mexico	1,076	334	12	2	—	56	108	8
Cuba	282	284	396	451	454	191	52	47
Venezuela	6	17	18	12	26	16	34	67
Haiti	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—
El Salvador	—	—	60	—	—	—	—	—
Nicaragua	—	—	40	3	—	—	—	—
Costa Rica	—	—	—	96	40	—	—	—
Guatemala	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—
Panama, Republic ..	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
Brazil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
British Honduras ..	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dominican Republic:	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Total	1,366	635	527	574	544	264	194	122
Europe:								
Sweden	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Germany, West	—	—	—	—	5	—	1	1
Italy	—	—	—	—	36	—	—	—
United Kingdom	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2
Netherlands	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—
Total	—	—	—	4	41	3	7	3
Asia:								
Japan	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Egypt	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other countries:	7	6	10	7	12	7	12	34
Grand total.....	1,376	650	541	602	610	283	224	172

1/ 100 pound bags.

Table 9--: SEED (ALL TYPES): U.S. exports by destination; marketing years beginning September 1.

Country of destination	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60
	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/
North America:								
Canada	7:	6:	6:	7:	10:	11:	12:	13
Total	7:	6:	6:	7:	10:	11:	12:	13
Latin America:								
Cuba	5:	1:	2/	--:	2/	2/	--:	--
Haiti	1:	--:	3:	4:	--:	--:	--:	--
Mexico	14:	10:	2:	2:	1:	3:	2:	20
Venezuela	1:	2:	1:	2:	2:	2:	1:	2
Total	21:	13:	6:	8:	3:	5:	3:	22
Europe:								
United Kingdom ...	--:	--:	--:	--:	1:	1:	3:	3
Netherlands	10:	9:	1:	1:	3:	5:	3:	2
France	7:	1:	2/	--:	4:	5:	--:	6
Germany, West	--:	--:	--:	--:	1:	2:	2:	1
Switzerland	1:	1:	1:	--:	1:	--:	--:	--
Yugoslavia	2:	--:	--:	--:	--:	--:	--:	--
Rumania	--:	--:	--:	--:	--:	5:	--:	--
Greece	--:	--:	--:	--:	--:	1:	--:	--
Total	20:	11:	2:	1:	10:	19:	8:	12
Asia:								
New Zealand	--:	1:	--:	--:	1:	1:	--:	--
Australia	--:	--:	--:	--:	1:	--:	--:	1
Japan	--:	1:	--:	--:	1:	--:	--:	--
Israel	--:	--:	--:	--:	--:	1:	--:	--
Total	--:	2:	--:	--:	3:	2:	--:	1
Africa:								
Union of S. Africa:	--:	--:	--:	2:	2:	--:	--:	--
Total	--:	--:	--:	2:	2:	--:	--:	--
Other countries:	2:	3:	6:	--:	7:	3:	8:	6
Grand Total	50:	35:	20:	18:	35:	40:	31:	54

1/ 100 lb. bags. 2/ Less than 500 bags.

Table 10.--ALL BEANS (INCLUDING SEED): U.S. exports by destination;
marketing years beginning September 1

Country of destination	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60
	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/	1,000 bags 1/
North America:								
Canada	69	99	62	201	267	41	45	53
Total	69	99	62	201	267	41	45	53
Latin America:								
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	120
Cuba	820	626	739	750	946	862	1,148	941
Mexico	1,266	394	203	232	175	791	1,068	338
Venezuela	36	40	45	32	67	47	94	133
Costa Rica	--	--	--	122	41	--	42	--
Panama, Rep. of ..	7	9	6	2	13	8	19	--
Colombia	--	14	10	2	--	--	--	--
British Honduras ..	6	4	9	8	3	4	7	--
Haiti	1	--	124	--	15	--	--	--
El Salvador	--	--	60	--	--	--	--	--
Total	2,136	1,087	1,196	1,148	1,260	1,712	2,378	1,532
Europe:								
United Kingdom	2	431	155	527	977	15	941	1,133
Netherlands	325	180	55	56	36	13	48	80
France	12	1	1	1	4	5	4	232
Spain	--	10	--	--	1	--	181	87
Germany, West	--	--	--	--	--	3	2	54
Greece	133	105	1	--	1	2/	--	46
Yugoslavia	127	37	--	22	--	--	149	72
Belgium-Luxembourg:	110	34	16	10	5	--	10	59
Italy	25	10	17	70	51	--	--	--
Ireland	4	5	2	3	6	--	1	--
Switzerland	2	3	1	1	9	2/	--	--
Hungary	--	--	22	--	--	--	--	--
Total	740	816	270	690	1,090	36	1,336	1,763
Asia:								
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Lebanon	28	15	28	32	--	--	--	--
Israel	119	33	7	20	28	--	42	--
Japan	5	2	54	1	10	102	1	63
Total	152	50	89	53	38	102	43	67
Oceania:								
Australia	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	20
New Zealand	--	--	1	--	--	1	--	--
Total	--	--	1	1	1	1	--	20
Other countries:	200	136	122	132	98	70	145	89
Grand total	3,297	2,188	1,740	2,225	2,754	1,962	3,947	3,524

1/ 100-lb. bags.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Official Business

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

(PMGC)